

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 FMC-04 TRSE-00

AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 DOTE-00 IO-14 DRC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 /111 W

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R 100755Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4568

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

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DEPARTMENT PASS MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, TZ

SUBJECT: DAR ES SALAAM PORT CONGESTION PROBLEM CONTINUES

REF: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 4142 (NOTAL) (B) DAR ES SALAAM 3766
(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM EAST AFRICAN CONFERENCE
LINES SUGGEST SURCHARGE WILL BE PLACED ON DAR ES SALAAM CARGOS
SOON AND WILL BE FAIRLY HEAVY. CONGESTION PROBLEM, WHICH RELATES
TO VISIT, REMAINS DIFFICULT WITH SHIPS WAITING TEN DAYS FOR QUAY-
SIDE BERTH AND DISCHARGE TIME LENGTHENING. ZAMBIAN IMPORTS PRE-
DICTED TO BACK UP THIS MONTH BUT SITUATION WILL PROBABLY IMPROVE
IN FEBRUARY WHEN MORE TRANSPORT IS SUPPOSED TO BECOME AVAILABLE.
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2. SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION FROM EAST AFRICAN CONFERENCE LINES IS VISITING DAR ES SALAAM PORT THIS WEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO ASSESS SURCHARGE BECAUSE OF CONGESTION AT PORT. BEST EXCUSE EAST AFRICAN HARBOURS CHAIRMAN COULD MUSTER IN DEFENSE OF SITUATION WAS TO LIST NEW CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT EXPECTED TO BE IN PLACE BY END OF 1974. DAILY NEWS OF JANUARY 9 REPORTS REPLY OF EA CONFERENCE LINES LEADER TO CHAIRMAN'S EXCUSE WAS: "WE HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES FOR SO LONG WE CANNOT TOLERATE TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR PLANS TAKE EFFECT." LOCAL SHIPPING AGENTS ESTIMATE IT IS ONLY QUESTION OF HOW LARGE A PERCENTAGE SURCHARGE CONFERENCE WILL SLAP ON DAR PORT.

3. SITUATION IN PORT AREA ROUGHLY SAME AS REPORTED IN REF A. GENERAL AGREEMENT IN SHIPPING CIRCLES THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE'S VISIT TO PORT IN EARLY DECEMBER DID RESULT IN SPEED UP, BUT MOMENTUM LARGELY DISSIPATED NOW. AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR BERTH FOR THOSE EIGHT SHIPS NOW ALONGSIDE WAS TEN DAYS (WITH WAITING TIME FOR STREAM ANCHORAGE MUCH SHORTER BUT DISCHARGE RATE THERE MUCH SLOWER). MOREOVER, SIX OF EIGHT QUAYSIDE BERTHS ARE DISCHARGING OR LOADING SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS FROM EACH SHIP--WHICH MEANS EACH BERTH WILL BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH A SHIP FOR AVERAGE OF ABOUT TEN DAYS. BEST INDICATOR OF PROBLEM IS FOUND IN MONTHLY "AVERAGE CARGO HANDLING PER SHIP" FIGURE PREPARED BY HARBOR AUTHORITIES. NOVEMBER FIGURE, JUST RELEASED, WAS NEW LOW OF 345 TONS PER DAY VS. AVERAGE OF WELL OVER 400 TONS PER DAY. SHIPPING LINE REPS TELL US PROBLEM IS STILL RELATED TO SHORTAGE OF WORK CREWS, PALLET PROBLEM (REF B) NOW ONLY PARTIALLY RESOLVED AND THAT EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT RAIL CARS AND, OFTEN, LONG DELAYS IN MOVING CARS OUT OF AREA ONCE LOADED. BECAUSE OF HARBOUR DELAYS, SHIPS WITH SMALL AMOUNTS OF TANZANIAN CARGO NOT STOPPING DAR, BUT DISCHARGING THEM AT NEARBY PORTS FOR TRANSHIPMENT LATER. THIS SOLUTION DOES REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SHIPS WAITING FOR BERTHS BUT ONLY POSTPONES PROBLEM AND MAKES IMPORT INFLOW IRRATIC.

4. FOR LUSAKA: UNDP TRANSPORTATION ADVISOR (BENDIX) TELLS US HE HAS ABOUT 15,000 TON BACKLOG (AGAINST PUBLISHED FIGURE OF AROUND 12,000 TONS) OF ZAMBIAN IMPORTS. ANOTHER 2,000 TON BACKLOG IS IN MOMBASA. HE ANTICIPATES THAT BACKLOG IN JANUARY COULD GROW TO 30,000 (DESCRIBED IT AS A "PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATE")

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BUT EXPECTS SITUATION TO EASE DRAMATICALLY IN FEBRUARY. REASON: APPROXIMATELY 250 VEHICLES (INCLUDING 28 TRW TRUCKS DIVERTED FROM TOGO) NOW BEING READIED FOR ROAD OR ON ROAD AND TRW HAS PROMISED 210 TO BE IN EAST AFRICA IN "NEXT SIX WEEKS." BENDIX IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT 250 VEHICLES HE IS NOW RECEIVING CAN BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, WE SEE NO IMPROVEMENT IN CON-

GESTION PROBLEM UNTIL FAR INTO FIRST QUARTER AND WE WOULD NOT BE
SURPRISED TO SEE MANY ELEMENTS OF PROBLEM WITH US IN THE
SPRING.
CARTER

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